

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

5, 6 and 7 May 2015

(Extract from book 6)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

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Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. A. Somyurek, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Drum, Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee — Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Dalidakis, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

Economy and Infrastructure References Committee — Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Dalidakis, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

Environment and Planning Legislation Committee — Ms Bath, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Leane, Ms Shing, Ms Tierney and Mr Young.

Environment and Planning References Committee — Ms Bath, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Leane, Ms Shing, Ms Tierney and Mr Young.

Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee — Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

Legal and Social Issues References Committee — Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O'Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem and Mr Purcell. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mr Perera and Ms Ryall.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Mr Dalidakis and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe and Ms Spence.

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr Battin, Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson and Ms Ward.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards, Ms Kealy, Ms McLeish, and Ms Sheed.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O'Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O'Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kealy, Ms Kilkeny and Mr Pesutto.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Ms G. TIERNEY

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Deputy Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:
The Hon. D. K. DRUM

Leader of the Greens:
Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFP — Shooters and Fishers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Tuesday, 5 May 2015

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 17 March 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Data on SRI participation is collected through the Department's mid-year supplementary census process, which collects a range of information from government schools.

A finalised document could not be generated from data collected in the 2014 census. The integrity of the source data is questionable, which has been confirmed through spot checks with schools conducted by the Department. It is understood that the issue is largely due to the time the data was collected in relation to the implementation of Ministerial Direction 141, which came into effect on 14 July 2014.

As the census date was only a few weeks later, many schools were still in a state of flux with respect to SRI and reported on their Semester 1 participation data rather than updated figures. Testing did validate the total number of schools delivering SRI at that time, however, this FOI request was focussed on participation rates at an individual school and student level and according to faith. This level of detail combined with validity issues led to the decision not to release the data requested.

The Department anticipates that the August 2015 data collection will result in more reliable data. The data will be available to the Department in early October, and reports will be able to be generated following this.

I can confirm that no funding has been provided to ACCESS Ministries for SRI since the cessation of their last agreement midway through 2014.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 17 March 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed that the Government is committed to ensuring that a proper process is put in place for the upcoming separation of Sunbury from Hume City Council.

Having been advised by Hume City Council that significant and complex issues remain to be resolved, the Government has delayed establishment of a new Sunbury City Council until 1 July 2016.

The Minister for Local Government has appointed the Hon Frank Vincent AO QC and Mr John Watson as Transition Auditors to review all of the issues involved. The Transition Auditors will work closely with Hume City Council and the community to ensure all residents are fully informed of all of the implications of separation.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 18 March 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Commonwealth Government has failed to provide a rationale to support proposed funding cuts to higher education and the Senate has rejected them. As a result, the status of the Commonwealth's reform process remains unclear and as such, the impact on your constituent's child also remains unclear.

This Government understands that there is a risk that some students will be discouraged by the prospect of higher fees and an inadequate scholarship scheme—particularly those on low incomes and mature age students, many of whom live in regional and outer metropolitan areas. I have raised my concerns with the Commonwealth in relation to this and other issues in relation to Vocational Education Training (VET) clear. I will continue to advocate against reforms that are detrimental to access and equity in relation to higher education.

Victoria's higher education sector makes a significant contribution to our economy—it delivers highly skilled workers to industry, drives innovation through research and is a top export industry.

The Andrews Government has set out to establish Victoria as the education state and the higher education sector in general, and universities such as Monash in particular, will play a key role in advancing this goal.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 18 March 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

A new station will be built on the Frankston line adjacent to the Southland Shopping Centre. The project has been in the planning phase since it was announced in April last year and Public Transport Victoria (PTV) has been developing a draft station design. This has now been released for public viewing and is available online at ptv.vic.gov.au/southland, along with artist impressions of what the station may look like. We are currently seeking feedback from the local community regarding the proposed design of the new station and the public is encouraged to provide comments about the project directly to PTV to be considered as the design is finalised. The feedback period is open until 1 May 2015.

PTV has advised me that the construction of the project will start in the second half of this year, with construction expected to be completed by the end of 2016. The new station is now anticipated to open in early 2017.

The Victorian Government has committed to remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings in the next eight years.

The Charman Road level crossing is one of the 50 level crossings that will be removed. PTV and the new Level Crossing Removal Authority will work closely during the removal of this level crossing. Both organisations will minimise any disruptions to train services and any potential impacts on car parking, traffic congestion and the accessibility and appearance of the local area while these works are being carried out.

The level crossing at Park Road is not part of the current list of crossings identified for removal.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkings
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 19 March 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

- Following a 9th October 2014 request from the former Minister for Planning to the former Treasurer, unspent funds in the Community Infrastructure Fund had been reallocated to the Strategic Sporting Infrastructure Program.
- Of the funds redirected, the Minister for Sport has agreed to return uncommitted funds to the Community Infrastructure Fund.
- The grant request for the Western Metropolitan Community Services Hub has now been announced under the Community Infrastructure Fund.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 19 March 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Both the Victorian and Federal Governments have confirmed a commitment of \$363.5 million to construct the duplication of the Princes Highway from Winchelsea to Colac. This is in addition to \$9.5 million of funding to undertake planning activities. No adjustments have been made to the project budget since 1 December 2014.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 19 March 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The Government has committed to an independent review of the residential zones to consider protocols for best practice consultation and the appropriate role of the Minister, councils and the community in the planning process.

The review will ensure that any future application of the residential zones throughout our neighbourhoods will be undertaken in a clear, consultative and transparent manner.

The review will be conducted in the second half of the year to allow the advisory committee to complete its work with the remaining councils.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 19 March 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The CityLink-Tulla Widening project is a major freeway upgrade that will increase capacity, ease congestion and improve safety along 24 kilometres of the Tullamarine Freeway, CityLink and the West Gate Freeway from Melbourne Airport, Tullamarine, through to Power Street in Southbank.

The CityLink-Tulla Widening project is subject to the Victorian Government's Market Led Proposal process. We are working through that process to ensure the project provides the best value for money for Victoria.

The project will add new traffic lanes, upgrade key interchanges and introduce a Freeway Management System. Major construction will commence in late 2015 and is expected to be completed by early 2018.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 15 April 2015

ANSWER:

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is responsible for waterway management at Reedy Lake. The key uses of the site, in addition to environmental services, include recreational duck hunting and commercial eel fishing. A draft seasonal watering proposal for Reedy Lake was recently released by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority for public comment. The draft proposal includes a trial lowering of water levels and partial drying of Reedy Lake during summer 2016 to maintain the ecological values of the wetland.

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is now considering feedback received in relation to the draft seasonal watering proposal and will finalise it over the coming weeks. The authority will make its decision in relation to whether it will proceed with the trial in consideration of all relevant matters within its role as waterway manager.

The catchment management authority is seeking a positive outcome for all stakeholders. To this end, it has been consulting extensively with Mr Osbourne regarding the change in water regime at Reedy Lake. The authority understands his concerns, and options for addressing potential impacts are being explored by all relevant agencies. To date, this has included constructing a fishway on the lower Barwon River and improving connectivity in the nearby Hospital Swamps to aid eel recruitment to Reedy Lake.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 15 April 2015

ANSWER:

In March 2015, I was pleased to announce the recipients of National Youth Week 2015 grants totalling \$182,945. Ninety-two organisations from across Victoria received funding to plan, organise and deliver a National Youth Week event in their community.

This included six organisations in the Western Metropolitan Region receiving \$2000 each as outlined below:

Organisation	Project Name	Project Location	Funding
Brimbank City Council	“Stylin Up” Youth Event	Visy Cares Hub-80B Harvester Road Sunshine	\$2,000
Hobsons Bay City Council	National Youth Week Celebration 2015	Altona Civic Centre, Civic Pd, Altona	\$2,000
Maribyrnong City Council	Dive In: Inspire, Create, Do	Phoenix Youth Centre: 72 Buckley St, Footscray	\$2,000
Western Edge Youth Arts	Making A Difference-Phoenix Youth Theatre NYW Performances	Phoenix Youth Centre-72 Buckley Street, Footscray	\$2,000
Wyndham City Council Youth Services	Wyndham Young Achiever of the Year and Volunteers Dinner 2015	Wyndham Civic Centre-45 Princes Hwy, Werribee	\$2,000
Orygen	“Get on Board”	Various Locations across Wyndham, Maribyrnong and Brimbank	\$2,000

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O’Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 15 April 2015

ANSWER:

On Monday 30 March 2015, Metro suspended the Stony Point line following two safety incidents in March where level crossings were not operating correctly.

At no stage did a train proceed through a crossing when a boom was in an up position.

PTV and Metro have undertaken a detailed evaluation to identify a plan for the return of services. Services are scheduled to return by late June 2015 following the installation of axle counters on the track. Buses will replace trains while these works are undertaken.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 16 April 2015

ANSWER:

In March 2015, I was pleased to announce the recipients of National Youth Week 2015 grants totalling \$182,945. Ninety-two organisations from across Victoria received funding to plan, organise and deliver a National Youth Week event in their community.

This included eight organisations in the Eastern Metropolitan Region receiving \$2000 each as outlined below:

Organisation	Project Name	Project Location	Funding
Banyule City Council	Monster Dance Party For Young People with Disabilities	Macleod YMCA	\$2,000

Organisation	Project Name	Project Location	Funding
City of Monash	Monash Youth Carnival	122 Kingsway Rd, Glen Waverley	\$2,000
City of Whitehorse-Youth Services	Whitehorse Gamers: Mario has the need for FIFA!	Youth Connexions, Box Hill Central South, Box Hill	\$2,000
Interchange Outer East	YOUth be HEARd	Marie Wallace Park, Bayswater	\$2,000
Knox City Council Youth Services	Green Foot Flicks Youth Film Festival	Village Cinema Knox, Wantirna South	\$2,000
Manningham YMCA	Epic Youth Festival	MC Square, 687 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster	\$2,000
Maroondah City Council	Maroondah's Youth Up Front	Raw Talent-Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Croydon Maroondah Youth Awards-Karralyka Centre, Ringwood	\$2,000
Nillumbik Shire Council	'It Starts With Us'-Nillumbik Youth Cultural Festival	Edendale Farm, Eltham.	\$2,000

Through education, sport, music, art, volunteering and community service, National Youth Week celebrates the enormous contribution young people make to our state in so many different ways.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 16 April 2015

ANSWER:

The member fails to acknowledge that the previous Victorian Coalition government never provided a guarantee of 15 hours of kindergarten funding.

The lack of Commonwealth commitment to ongoing funding beyond 2015 is causing significant uncertainty for the sector, with kindergarten services already planning their budgets, timetables, enrolments and staffing needs for 2016.

At the Education Council meeting on 5 March 2015, I made direct representations to Commonwealth Ministers on the need to urgently provide Commonwealth funding certainty for beyond 2015. I have also written to my Commonwealth counterparts and the Premier has written to the Prime Minister about the importance of continuing the National Partnership Agreement.

I reiterated these concerns at a meeting with the Hon Scott Ryan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training on 20 March 2015.

The final report of the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Child Care and Early Childhood Learning noted the success of Universal Access and recommended that the Commonwealth Government continues to provide funding. The Commonwealth has not, however, committed to a timeline for making a decision on its funding contribution.

The Victorian Government is committed to ongoing advocacy for the continuation of Commonwealth Government funding to build on Victoria's achievements. I urge you to make urgent representation to your Commonwealth Coalition counterparts to continue to fund 15 hours of kindergarten.

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Wednesday, 6 May 2015

South-Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 24 February 2015

ANSWER:

Over the next eight years, the Victorian Government will remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings in Melbourne. This significant program is a key step to transforming our public transport system into an international-style metro, while removing congestion on our road network.

As you noted, there are 18 level crossings that will be removed in the South East Metropolitan Region by 2022 that will deliver huge benefits throughout these communities.

Five of these level crossings will be delivered as part of the Cranbourne Pakenham Rail Upgrade that will include a total of nine level crossing removals, 37 new high-capacity trains, four station rebuilds, upgraded signalling and a new depot at Pakenham. Removing these level crossings will eliminate congestion at some of the worst level crossings in Melbourne, with some boom gates staying down for up to 80 minutes during the morning peak. This project will also boost capacity by up to 42 per cent on the Cranbourne-Pakenham line every day, accommodating an extra 11,000 passengers in the morning peak.

To facilitate the level crossing removals, the Government has brought forward funding of \$100 million to establish the Level Crossing Removal Authority. The Authority is developing a strategic plan for the efficient removal of the 50 level crossings, including optimal planning, procurement and construction methods and best practice community and stakeholder engagement.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 14 April 2015

ANSWER:

A well-resourced police force, with a strong commitment to community engagement and policing, is critical to keeping communities safe. This is why, as part of our election commitments, the government undertook to provide \$148.6 million to transition the management of police cells to new custody officers, releasing around 400 frontline police back into the community where they can focus on tackling crime and keeping the community safe. Victoria Police is working to implement this important initiative. The government will continue to consult with Victoria Police about overall police resourcing across the state.

In accordance with Section 10 of the Victoria Police Act 2013, I am unable to give directions in relation to the allocation or deployment of police officers to or at particular locations. The deployment of police resources, including the allocation of police officers and the determination of operating hours of police stations across the State, is a matter for the Acting Chief Commissioner of Police.

I am assured by the Acting Chief Commissioner that the allocation of police resources across Victoria is continuously monitored by respective command officers, with a view to maintaining an optimum law enforcement response.

Police are currently reviewing the staffing of the Somerville Police Station, with a decision to be made in the coming months. I assure you that the residents of the Mornington Peninsula, including Somerville, will continue to receive a 24-hour police response from frontline officers.

If any person requires urgent police assistance, they should contact Victoria Police on the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the closest appropriate police personnel.

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Thursday, 7 May 2015

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 18 March 2015

ANSWER:

The Government recognises that direct access to services and information is critical for businesses in more isolated areas of Victoria. Businesses that tap into these support services can identify new opportunities to expand and diversify — which in turn help generate local employment and economic growth.

I am pleased to advise the Member that the Small Business Bus will visit five locations in Eastern Victoria in June. They include:

- **Coldstream**—Monday 22 June from 10am-4pm
- **Olinda**—Tuesday 23 June from 10am-4pm
- **Wandin North**—Thursday 25 June from 10am-4pm
- **Koo Wee Rup**—Monday 29 June from 10am-4pm
- **Beaconsfield**—Tuesday 30 June from 10am-4pm

The Small Business Bus provides free mentoring and information to small business owners and individuals looking to start their own business. The on-board mentoring can help individuals to establish a clear direction for their business, identify key issues and priorities, and develop an action plan for achieving their goals.

In addition to free mentoring, the Small Business Bus provides access to information about the year-round programs and services available from Small Business Victoria.

These services include low-cost skills development workshops and seminars, which are designed to help small business people build their management expertise. Around 350 workshops and seminars are offered throughout Victoria, often delivered in partnership with local and regional councils.

Further visits by the Small Business Bus will be scheduled for Eastern Victoria in the second half of 2015, and these locations and details will be announced once the touring schedule is finalised.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 14 April 2015

ANSWER:

The local community and their representatives have been calling out for improvements to Shepparton campus at Goulburn Valley Health for a number of years and the Andrew Labor Government has listened to their concerns. I am pleased that the 2015–16 Victorian budget confirmed an investment of \$1 million to ensure that Goulburn Valley Health can plan for its future.

This Government acknowledges that Goulburn Valley Health needs to improve its facilities. A \$1 million investment will allow Goulburn Valley Health to undertake the work required to determine how they can deliver better services to their local community.

It is essential that this planning work is done to prepare a business case for the Shepparton redevelopment. I note this is work the former government failed to do during its period in office.

Indeed, the former government significantly under-invested in acute health capital right across the state and cut \$1 billion out of the health budget.

In contrast, our commitment to progress planning for a Goulburn Valley Health redevelopment is part of our government's \$560 million health capital program funded in the 2015–16 Budget.